

AA-359-13

U.S. Naval Academy, Bancroft Hall Wings 7 and 8 and Mitscher Hall, Buildings 101-7, 101-8 and 101-M

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 09-11-2018

AA-359-13

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Bancroft Hall stands on the southeast side of the quad on the United States Naval Academy's (USNA) main campus in Annapolis, Maryland. Bancroft Hall was built in 1908 as the dormitory building for the midshipmen at the USNA. Today, the building has eight wings built between 1908 and 1961. Buildings 101-7 (Wing 7) and 101-8 (Wing 8), are located southeast and northeast of the original 1908 main block. Building 101-M (Mitscher Hall) stands between Wing 7 and Wing 8. Cooper Road runs along the northwest side of Wings 7 and 8 and Mitscher Hall. Tennis courts are located behind (southeast of) Wing 8, and a paved parking lot is located along the rear of Wing 7.

Bancroft Hall, Wings 7 and 8

Wings 7 and 8, Buildings 101-7 and 101-8, were built in 1961. Wing 8 is attached to the southeast elevation of Wing 6, and Wing 7 is attached to the southeast elevation of Wing 5. The wings are attached to Wings 5 and 6 of Bancroft Hall by two-story breezeways that extend from the second and third stories of the buildings across Cooper Road. Mitscher and Levy halls stand

Eligibility Recommended:										Eligibility Not Recommended:									
X										_____									
Criteria:	X	A	B	X	C	D				Considerations:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G		

Amanda Apple *APA*

Peter Kurtze

Monday, June 23, 2014

Date _____

Monday, June 23, 2014

Date _____

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

AA-359-0013

AA-359-13
Page 2

Bancroft Hall Wings 7 & 8 and Mitscher Hall

between Wings 7 and 8. The buildings are connected by one-story wings.

Similar to Bancroft Hall, Wings 7 and 8 exude characteristics of the French Renaissance and Beaux Arts styles with their ashlar masonry walls and mansard roof. The wings stand six stories over a basement and each has an H-shaped footprint; however, the northeastern section of Wing 8 and the southwestern section of Wing 7 are shorter on the southeastern end. The buildings each sit on a solid foundation with a granite watertable. The first story of the building is faced in granite ashlar and is separated from the second story by a stone beltcourse. The second through fifth stories of the building are clad in rusticated coursed granite and the corners are ornamented by smooth-cut granite quoins. The building is capped with a slate mansard roof with copper coping. The roof features overhanging eaves ornamented with stone modillions, a dentil frieze, and an ogee cornice. The buildings are symmetrically fenestrated by paired windows that are six-over-six aluminum-sash on the first story and four-over-four aluminum-sash on the second through fifth stories. The windows on the second through fifth stories are separated by cast stone spandrels with a circular or square motif. The sixth story of the building is lit by hipped dormers with paired four-over-four aluminum-sash windows. The dormers have copper standing-seam metal roofs. Entrances to the wings are located on the northwestern and southeastern ends of the building and consist of double-leaf metal and glass doors with one-light transoms. Roll-up garage doors for deliveries are located in the horizontal sections of the building on the first story of the northeast elevations.

Mitscher Hall

Mitscher Hall, Building 101-M, was built in 1961 along with Wings 7 and 8 and displays classical characteristics of the Beaux Arts and French Renaissance styles. Mitscher Hall is a one-story masonry building that is 11 bays wide and has a rectangular footprint. It sits on a solid foundation with a stone watertable and its walls are coursed granite ashlar. The building is capped with a flat roof ornamented by an ogee cornice and stone frieze. The center bay on the main (northwest) elevation is slightly taller in height and projects slightly from the façade. The center bay holds the main entrance of the building, which consists of three glass and metal double-leaf doors. The entrance is sheltered by a port cochere with a flat roof and square posts faced in stone. The port cochere connects to the rear (southeast) elevation of Building 101-K and spans Cooper Road. Segmental arched openings pierce the walls on either side of the entrance and hold multi-light aluminum-sash windows. The segmental arches are decorated by stylized stone voussoirs.

Historical Background

Bancroft Hall

Bancroft Hall was designed by Ernest Flagg as part of his 1899-1910 plan for the USNA. In 1895 the USNA's Board of Visitors condemned the institution's facilities and recommended a complete reconstruction of the campus. The Navy commissioned architect Ernest Flagg to develop a new master plan for the Academy in 1895 and in 1899 they retained Flagg to oversee the Academy's transformation. As part of his master plan, Flagg designed the Beaux Arts-style Bancroft Hall to serve as the dormitory for the USNA midshipmen. Prior to the construction of Bancroft, the midshipmen were housed in dormitories that had outlasted their usefulness. By the late 1800s the dormitories were considered drafty, cramped, and unsafe (Kiland and Howren

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Amanda Apple

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Peter Kurtze

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

A-359-0013

Bancroft Hall Wings 7 & 8 and Mitscher Hall

Page 3

AA-359-13

2007:73). Construction on Bancroft Hall began as early as 1900 and the first section of the building, which contains present day Wings 3 and 4 and the rotunda, were built in 1908. The dormitory was expanded in 1918 with Wings 5 and 6 and in 1941 with Wings 1 and 2. The mess hall, also known as King Hall, was built south of the main building in 1953.

Expansion of the USNA and Bancroft Hall

By the middle of the twentieth century, the USNA was outgrowing its campus. While Ernest Flagg's campus design did allow for some future expansion, the existing buildings and facilities had become small and outdated and additional space was needed. Until World War II, enrollment and curriculum changes were accommodated by adding single buildings on available space on the campus. After World War II, the Academy recognized that the changing scope necessitated better planning efforts. In 1947 the Bureau of Yards and Docks began planning studies by preparing several comprehensive site plans that illustrated extensive changes of the campus. In 1948 a special advisory commission known as the Manning Commission prepared a report outlining the needs of the Academy and proposed solutions. The 1948 plan resulted in the modernization and expansion of the athletic facilities and midshipman housing, in particular the rehabilitation and expansion of Bancroft Hall in 1961. These studies were the first since Flagg's plan in 1898 (Warnecke 1967:1).

The 1961 additions to Bancroft Hall and simultaneous renovations to the existing wings were designed and completed by the Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia architectural firm of George M. Ewing Co. (Ewing). The firm was established in Philadelphia in 1938 by George M. Ewing, Sr. and George M. Ewing, Jr. In 1961 the principal architects included George Sr. and George Jr. as well as Alexander Ewing, son of George Jr. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the firm's focus was on the expansion of research and manufacturing facilities. Notable works include the library at Drexel University (1959) and their collaboration with architect Pietro Belluschi in the design of the Rohm and Haas Corporate Headquarters (1963-1965), both in Philadelphia (AIA 1962:202; Hamilton 2006; Wallace 1993).

The need for the expansion and renovation of Bancroft Hall was dire. When the Navy expanded Bancroft Hall in 1941, the dormitory had a capacity of 2,500 midshipmen, which was approximately the same as the USNA's enrollment. By 1960 enrollment had increased to 4,000 (Davidson 1961). In a conditions assessment of Bancroft Hall, Ewing expressed, "Today. . . there is a grave danger at the Naval Academy. . . and prompt action is necessary. . . . The environment at the Academy, which fosters the development of characters, self-discipline and high personal standards of a Naval officer, is being detrimentally influenced by the depressing living conditions in this building - Bancroft Hall" (Ewing ca. 1959). Thus, Wings 7 and 8 of Bancroft Hall were designed to relieve overcrowding. The wings added 550 additional rooms to the building, providing a total of 1,864 rooms. The renovations updated and improved the living conditions in the previous wings that had heavily deteriorated because of age and overcrowded conditions (Ewing ca. 1959).

As a result of the 1961 expansion of Bancroft Hall, the building is one of the largest dormitories in the world. The building encompasses over 33 acres and boasts over 4.8 miles of corridors, 1,800 dorm rooms, a 55,000 square-foot department store, shops, and a post office. Mitscher Hall was built at the same time as Wings 7 and 8 as an all faith chapel and for chaplain's offices (Kiland and Howren 2007:72, 127).

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: XEligibility Not Recommended: Criteria: X A B X C DConsiderations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Amanda Apple

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Peter Kurtze

Reviewer, National Register Program

Monday, June 23, 2014

Date

Monday, June 23, 2014

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

AA-359-0043-

Bancroft Hall Wings 7 & 8 and Mitscher Hall

Page 4

AA-359-13

6-20-14

Between 1994 and 2003, Bancroft Hall underwent a nine-year renovation that included repointing of the exterior stone, rehabilitation and refurbishing of the interior spaces, window replacement, HAZMAT abatement, and the overhaul of the electrical and mechanical systems. The project was divided into eight phases, one phase per wing, and was the largest renovation ever undertaken at the USNA (Beckwith 1997). The project was undertaken by Whiting-Turning Contracting Co. and the design firm of RTKL Associates, both from Baltimore. A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the completion of the \$250 million dollar project on May 15, 2003 (Baltimore Sun 2003).

Evaluation

The USNA consists of 336.4 acres, including 7.4 acres of water, on the northeastern edge of Annapolis, Maryland. The main campus sits on a peninsula bounded by College Creek (Dorsey Creek) on the northwest, the Severn River on the northeast, and Spa Creek on the southeast. Additional buildings, including the hospital complex, cemetery, athletic facilities, and administration and public works buildings, are located on the northwest side of Dorsey Creek. Since its establishment in 1845, the campus has expanded through land acquisition as well as by shoreline reclamation along the Severn River and Spa Creek.

The USNA is a military institution that trains midshipmen and midshipwomen for commission in the United States Navy or Marines. The main campus was designed by Ernest Flagg between 1899 and 1910 and has a collection of academic, athletic, residential, support, and infrastructure buildings that illustrate the evolution of the campus from 1845 to the present. The campus is distinctive because of its Beaux Arts-style buildings and master plan designed by Flagg. The subsequent expansion of the campus and the design of new buildings since 1910 largely follow the design characteristics established by Flagg.

The main campus of the USNA was listed as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1961 and in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1966 for its architecture and its central role in the development of military education. The original nomination does not contain a period of significance or a comprehensive list of contributing and non-contributing buildings within the district; however, a 1980 study conducted by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (HCRS) on behalf of the Department of the Navy completed a historic building inventory of the USNA. The purpose of the study was to survey and evaluate the resources within the USNA Historic District and to categorize the resources according to their importance to the district (Kapsch 1980). As part of the 1980 survey, Bancroft Hall, Wings 1 and 2, and Wings 5 and 6, were determined to be contributing resources to the USNA Historic District.

Wings 7 and 8 of Bancroft Hall and Mitscher Hall are recommended as contributing to the USNA Historic District. The buildings are significant as part of Bancroft Hall, the dormitory of all of the USNA midshipmen and women. The wings and Mitscher Hall were designed in keeping with Ernest Flagg's original design for Bancroft Hall and display characteristics of the Beaux Arts and French Renaissance styles. Although the original windows and doors have been replaced, the buildings retain a high level of integrity.

Works Cited

American Institute of Architects [AIA]

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Amanda Apple

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Peter Kurtze

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

AA-359-0013

Bancroft Hall Wings 7 & 8 and Mitscher Hall

Page 5

AA-359-13

1961 American Architects Directory. American Institute of Architects. Accessed online April 13, 2011, at <http://communities.aia.org/sites/hdoaa/wiki/Wiki%20Pages/1962%20American%20Architects%20Directory.aspx>.

Beckwith, Paul D.

1997 Bancroft Hall Prepares For 21st Century. Navy Civil Engineer (Spring/Summer 1997):17-20.

Baltimore Sun

2003 Academy Marks Completion of Bancroft Hall Renovation. May 16.

Davidson, J. F.

1961 Superintendent's Message to the Special Advisory Commission on Future Development of Facilities, United States Naval Academy. On file, Naval Academy Archives, Nimitz Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Ewing, George M. Company [Ewing]

ca. 1959 Report on Necessity for Rehabilitation of Bancroft Hall. Buildings and Grounds Folder, Bancroft Hall, Naval Academy Archives, Nimitz Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Hamilton, Cynthia Rose

2006 National Register of Historic Places Form Rohm and Haas Corporate Headquarters. Accessed online May 9, 2011 at www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/document/.../h141923_01h_pdf.

Kapsch, Robert J.

1980 Historic Building Inventory of the United States Naval Academy. Ms. On file, Public Works Department, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland.

Kiland, Taylor, and Jamie Howren

2007 A Self-Guided Tour of the U.S. Naval Academy. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, Maryland.

Naval Academy Archives

ca. 2006a The Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel. Brochure. Buildings and Grounds Folder, Naval Academy Archives, Nimitz Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Ca. 2006b Honored Design. Buildings and Grounds Folder, Levy Center, Naval Academy Archives, Nimitz Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Ca. 2007 The Commodore Uriah P. Levy Center and Jewish Chapel, Annapolis, Maryland. Pamphlet. Buildings and Grounds Folder, Levy Center, Naval Academy Archives, Nimitz Library, Annapolis, Maryland.

Wallace, Andy

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Amanda Apple

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Peter Kurtze

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

~~AA-359-0013~~

Bancroft Hall Wings 7 & 8 and Mitscher Hall

Page 6 **AA-359-13**

8-1-08-AA

1993 George M. Ewing, 76 of Devon – Co-Founder of Architectural Firm. Philadelphia Inquirer, September 24.

Warnecke, John Carl and Associates [Warnecke]

1967 United States Naval Academy Master Plan-1967. John Carl Warnecke and Associates, Washington, D.C.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility Recommended: X

Eligibility Not Recommended:

Criteria: X A B X C D

Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

Amanda Apple

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Peter Kurtze

Monday, June 23, 2014

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date



Name: ANNAPOLIS
 Date: 5/3/2011
 Scale: 1 inch equals 2000 feet

Location: 038° 59' 01.34" N 076° 28' 47.43" W NAD 27
 Caption: Buildings 101-7, 101-7, and 101-M/101-L
 USNA

MHP No. AA-359-003-CRS

AA 359-13



AA-359-13

BANCROFT Hall WING 7 (101-7)

USNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

LOUIS BERGER GROUP

1/2011

MD SHPD

SW ELEVATION, LOOKING NE

PHOTO 1 OF 7



AA-359-13

BANCROFT Hall Wing 7 (101-7)

USNA Historic District

Anne Arundel County, MD

Louis BERGER Group

1/2011

MD SHPD

NE ELEVATION, Looking South

PHOTO 2 OF 7



44-359-13-

BANCROFT Hall Wing 7 (101-7)

USMA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL County, MD

LOUIS BERGER GROUP

1/2011

MD SHPTD

SE ELEVATION, LOOKING SW

Photo 3 of 7



AA-359-13

BANCROFT HAW WING 8(101-8)

USNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY MD

LOUIS BERGER GROUP

1/2011

MD SHPD

SW CORNER, LOOKING NE

PHOTO 4 OF 7



AA-359-13

BANCROFT Hall Wing 8 (101-8)

USNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

LOUIS BERGER GROUP

1/2011

MD SHPO

SW CORNER, LOOKING NE

PHOTO 5 OF 7



AA-359-13

BANCROFT HALL WING 8 (101-8)

USNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

LOUIS BERGER GROVE

1/2011

MD SHPD

SOUTH CORNER, LOOKING NW

PHOTO 6 OF 7



AA-359-L3

MITSCHEM HALL (101-M)

USNA HISTORIC DISTRICT

ANNIE ARUNDEL COUNTY, MD

LOUIS BERGER GROUND

1/2011

MD 8400

SW CORNER LOOKING NE

PHOTO 7 OF 7